

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1096

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

DAMAGE CAUSED TO ENVIRONMENT

Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan;Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the massive fire broke out at Indian Oil Corporation fuel depot at Jaipur has caused large scale damage to environment in a wide spread area;
- (b) if so, the extent of damage caused a result thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has also conducted any assessment regarding the adverse impact on environment and inhabitants living in the adjoining areas;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether Indian Oil Corporation has obtained environmental clearance before setting up of such a huge depot at Jaipur;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d) The Government of Rajasthan has constituted a Committee for assessment of the environmental impact of the fire at the Indian Oil Corporation limited Oil Depot at Jaipur. The Central Pollution Control Board and the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board have assessed the impact of the fire on ambient air quality by monitoring air quality in the radius of 5km at 8 locations. Subsequently 6 more monitoring locations were added. The maximum values for pollutants like Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM-376) and Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM-268), exceeded the National Ambient Air Quality Standards during the monitoring period. However, the Committee appointed by Principal SMS Medical College and Controller of Attached Hospitals, Jaipur, did not indicate any significant health hazards due to this fire. Further, a Committee appointed by the Commissioner (Agriculture), Rajasthan did not find any clear-cut evidence of adverse impact on agriculture.

(e) to (g) As per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification S.O.(E) dated 27.01.1994, new projects covered under Schedule-I and having investment of less than Rs. 100 crores will not attract the provisions of the notification. Hence the setting up of oil depot at Jaipur, having an investment of Rs. 40 crore, did not require environment clearance.